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THE UNITARIAN

A MAGAZINE FOR FREE CHRISTIANS

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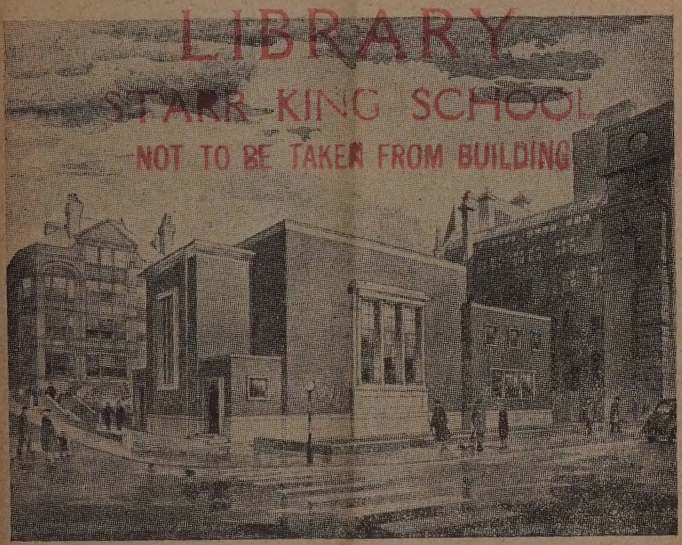

CROSS STREET RE-BUILDS

Over a year ago we published the ground-floor plan of the new Cross Street Chapel. Since then the walls of the ancient blitzed building have been demolished, with the exception of the historic Chapel House, which is still occupied by the Caretaker, and in the Chapel Room of which the Sunday services and week-day meetings are being regularly held, so that since the erection of the old chapel, services will never have ceased to be conducted on the premises. When the new Council Room, on the Cross Street side of the site and somewhat to the rear of the main hall, is complete, the Chapel House will be completely altered, being so taken into the new plan that the ground-floor provides vestry and part of the toilet accommodation, while the upstairs retains the very historic Chapel Room, but the rest becomes part of the new building which contains a residential flat for the caretaker.

At the moment of writing, the new walls have reached three or four feet above ground level.

As the amount received from the War Damage Commission, £25,000,

plus the £1,000 already raised by the congregation, falls short of the needs by £10,000, an appeal for that amount has been launched, and donations or covenanted subscriptions may be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. L. Howard, at Williams Deacon's Bank, St. Ann Street, Manchester, 2. It is hoped that this appeal will bring in sufficient funds not only to complete the building scheme, but also to lay out the ancient graveyard in Chapel Walks as a garden with seats for the public.

EASTERTIDE

By A. B. Downing

Last year's Wayside Pulpit for Easter ran: "At Easter we celebrate not the death but the life of Christ." Orthodox Christians might have said how perverse we Unitarians are: Here, at Eastertide, sounding a different note from all the rest of the Christian Church. But we are unrepentant about it. At least I am!

When we ponder on the wonderful probability of human survival after death, we do not limit ourselves to the Gospel stories of the Resurrection. Those, for us, only have limited value. We try to think about it not in the light of the Bible only, but in the light of our *own* experience. For the Unitarian our physical life is something through which finer things are all the time trying to break through. To us that is an undeniable fact of common experience. It is like light passing through coloured glass. The light is changed by the glass, but it is not the glass which creates the light.

Dr. Alfred Hall once pointed out the obvious fact that we all possess more mental powers than we really need to keep ourselves alive physically. As he puts it "we are all conscious of unexpressed thoughts, affections and ideals within ourselves" which can never be satisfied on earth and which demand a higher life. If that is not so, then we are only half alive. In differing measure we all have in us something of Carlyle's shoe black who, if he were given even half the universe would still be discontented; "it is because there is an Infinite within him, which with all his cunning he cannot quite bury under the Finite." Our outward life seems to be for an inward purpose. And that is one of the *religious* reasons why we Unitarians are more interested in the life of Jesus than in his death. Each of us has more links with his spirit through what we may know about his earthly life than through what we may dogmatise about his Calvary.

At Easter time we ponder on the mysteries of personal survival, thinking especially of those closest to us, and we realize that, in life, we all forge with one another bonds of love and aspiration and sympathy which are altogether too rich and fine for temporal words or earthly measurement. This very human world of ours half-reveals and half-conceals what can only be a glorious dimension of the Spirit. For myself, I believe that, about that dimension, we are destined to know more after death than we know now in life. We cannot hope to know more unless, now in our daily lives, we prepare ourselves for that ultimate revelation. *How* we live helps us to face and perhaps determines what we shall meet when we die. That is why, at Easter, we celebrate not the death but the life of Christ.

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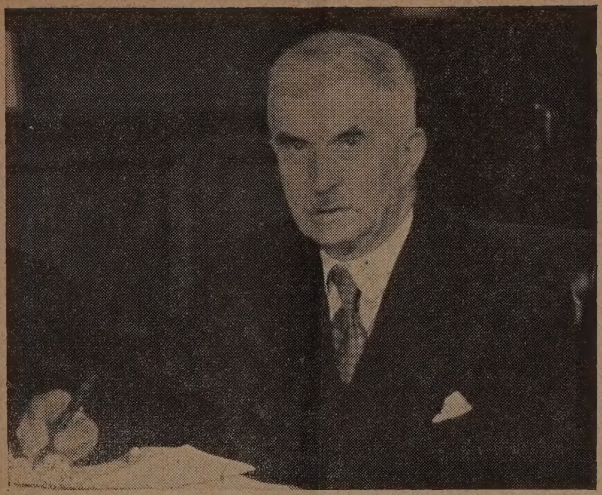

THESE ARE UNITARIANS

No. 4. The Rt. Hon. J. Chuter Ede, C.H., D.L., J.P., M.P.

To look at Mr. Chuter Ede or hear him speak, no one would imagine him to be nearer 80 than 70, but it is a fact that this vigorous and very active public figure and fighter for civil and religious liberty was born on September 11th, 1882. A lifelong Unitarian, he was elected President of the International Association for Religious Freedom at the Belfast Congress in 1955, and will become President of the General Assembly in April at the London meetings.

His Unitarianism has been shown in a life of public service directed into various channels. His reputation as Labour member of Parliament for South Shields, as well as his somewhat rugged appearance, might mislead one into supposing that he is a northerner, but on the contrary he was born at Epsom, and the greater part of his life has been devoted to his native county of Surrey.

He started his career in 1905 as a Schoolmaster, having climbed the educational ladder from Epsom National School by way of Dorking High School and Battersea Polytechnic Centre to Christ's College, Cambridge. While still teaching he became a member of the Epsom Urban District Council, serving from 1908 to 1927, and again from 1933 to 1937, nearly quarter of a century of municipal service. In 1919 he became Secretary to the Surrey County Teachers' Association, serving till 1945. In 1914, when he gave up teaching, he served on the Surrey County Council until 1949, being Vice-Chairman from 1930 to 1933, and Chairman from 1933 to 1937.

It was in 1918 that he contested the Epsom parliamentary division unsuccessfully, but became Member of Parliament for Mitcham in the first parliament with a Labour Government, only to be defeated in December 1923, and in 1924. He was elected for South Shields in

1929, to be defeated again in 1931, but since 1935 he has represented the constituency continuously. In 1940 he became Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, and the Ministry of Education from 1944 to 1945 in which year he became Home Secretary until 1951, and from February to October of that year he was Leader of the House of Commons.

His services to education were recognised by the University of Cambridge in 1943, when he received the Honorary M.A. Bristol made him Hon. LL.D. in 1951 and Durham made him Hon. D.C.L. in 1954.

His public service, however, has not been confined to education and politics. In 1937 he became President of the British Electrical Development Association, and he was a member of the London and Home Counties Joint Electricity Authority from 1928 to 1945. From 1937 to 1939 he was President of the Surrey and Sussex Area Committee of the National Fitness Council, and since 1955 he has been President of the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpath Preservation Society.

Other duties and distinctions fell to him in local government. In 1937 he was elected Charter Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, and he is an Honorary Freeman of no less than four boroughs, Wimbledon, Epsom and Ewell, Mitcham, and South Shields.

For nearly ten years Mr. Chuter Ede has been a widower, for he lost his wife after over 30 years of married life in 1948. That he is willing to accept the Presidency of our General Assembly on the top of so many other important activities is a matter of great gratification to Unitarians, especially to those who on various occasions have heard him speak on his favourite subject of religious and political liberty with great energy, conviction, and not a little humour.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By Arthur Peacock

London will be the scene again of General Assembly meetings which commence on April 15th. As usual the Sunday School Association will be first, with its annual meeting at Dr. Williams' Library at 2.30. From there delegates and ministers will have to travel to Hampstead where at 4 p.m. the informal reception will be held, followed at 7 p.m. by the anniversary service. This will be conducted by Rev. Kenneth Sherratt, of Mansfield, while the Rev. W. J. Carter, of Newport, Isle of Wight, will preach the sermon.

Wednesday will see the annual business meeting at Conway Hall, where the Rt. Hon. J. Chuter Ede, will be installed as President. Later in the day the Editor of "The Unitarian" will address the National Unitarian Fellowship on "The N.U.F. and the Younger Generation." Miss Mitchell and Miss Stevenson will speak at the Social Service Department meeting on the work it is doing.

Thursday's agenda follows the usual crowded pattern. The Rev. A. B. Downing will conduct the communion service at Dr. Williams' Library. The Essex Hall lecture will be given at Conway Hall by Principal Kenworthy whose theme will be "Ancient Prophecy and Modern Crises." In the afternoon the members of the Women's League will celebrate their 50th anniversary at their meeting over which Miss Ruth Herford will preside. "What is Religious Education?" will be the evening theme.

International Affairs has its place again on the agenda for the Friday morning session. Dr. Van De Woude of the I.A.R.F. will speak on "Relief work in Eastern Europe," and it is hoped that representatives from the Hungarian Unitarian Church may be present. The closing address will be given by Rev. C. G. Toone, of Moretonhampstead.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

"Though April shar-wers may come your way,
They bring the flar-wers that bloom——"

The voice from the kitchen was cut off sharply as the door was slammed.

"I wish," said Nippa, crossly "that we'd never found that gramophone. Clippa is getting unbearable. It was bad enough after we saw the musical film, do you remember? But, now! Fancy *anyone* leaving a record-player and a box of records by the roadside! How could they forget things like that?"

Pippa sighed. "Well, at least we now know what Elvis Presley sounds like But Clippa is the last straw! He tries to sound like *everybody!*"

"*We shall have an understanding,*" Nippa said, and opening the door, called "Clippa!"

"Yes?" came the reply; and with it, Clippa, happy and cheerful.

"Clippa," asked Nippa, "do you *have* to sing that particular song?"

"'April Showers'? I thought it seemed appropriate."

"Possibly," replied Nippa, "but surely not dozens of times a day? Don't you know any other *appropriate* song?"

"Oh yes," said Clippa, brightening up. "There's 'April Love,' 'April in Paris,' 'April in Portugal,' 'I Remember A——'"

"Oh yes," cut in Nippa, hastily, "quite so. Good gracious, are there *so* many like *that*?"

"Of course. There's also ——"

"Thank you, no," interrupted Pippa. "It has been raining ever since we found those records. Do you think there is any connection?"

"Certainly not," replied Clippa. "Anyway, we've only borrowed them. We'll put them back."

"We bear you no ill-will," mentioned the long-suffering Nippa, "but if you *must* sing, could you choose something different?"

"Quite easily," chuckled Clippa, moving back to the kitchen—and he sang:

"O April is a ——"

"Lady?" suggested Nippa, hopefully.

"—— wet month
And heralds Maytime flowers;
But Portugal and Paris find
They still get April Sh——"

But the door had slammed behind him!

NEWS AND VIEWS

IRISH CHURCHES

BELFAST. All Souls' Church recently presented the play "Michael" in church with great reverence and dramatic effect. A service for ten cycling clubs has also been held, with lunch provided. The church, which is by far the best attended in our denomination in the British Isles, and last year raised over £2,000 in subscriptions and collections without any special appeals or efforts, is facing difficulties in maintaining attendances, for last year no less than 200 members removed from the city to country districts. Many of them come in for morning service, and the attendances then have increased, but the fall-off in evening attendances is noticed.

DUNMURRY. The church roof is to be renewed, and a recent sale achieved £177. A party of young people is learning Flemish in readiness for a holiday in Belgium, tutored by Mr. Alex van Geet, of Ballyclare.

GREAT BRITAIN

ALLOSTOCK Chapel, which stands on the main Manchester-Holmes Chapel road, but is probably unknown to many Unitarian travellers who pass it, has been provided with a new notice-board. The revived Sunday School continues to make progress.

BRADFORD, Yorks. In preparation for meeting the cost of entertaining the General Assembly in Leeds in 1959, BROADWAY AVENUE has held a Jumble Sale to start the fund.

BOLTON. A One-Day School for Teachers has been held in co-operation with the R.E.Y.D., and was found very helpful to the schools in the area.

BRIDPORT. A new electric heating system is now in use in the chapel, and has had a very thorough testing during the recent winter weather.

CREWKERNE welcomed six new Junior members from the Sunday School at evening service on February 2nd.

CULLOMPTON congregation has enjoyed a Valentine Party, which raised over £7 for chapel funds. The Annual Meeting of the congregation was well attended, and at the Sunday School prize day, fourteen scholars received book prizes.

DUDLEY Meeting House is to have its front renovated and the approaches improved.

EXETER. The Rev. Dr. F. D. Meyer-Kriigel received a letter of personal greetings from Mr. Adlai Stevenson, of the U.S.A., on his induction on March 1st. The message concluded: "Some day when I am in England I hope I can come to Devonshire, and if I do, I shall take the liberty of calling upon you."

KIDDERMINSTER. On February 16th a Men's Service was conducted by the men of the congregation, with Mr. P. J. Spencer, of the National Lay Preachers' Union, as preacher. The Chapel has been bequeathed £500 by the late Misses Badland.

LEIGH The Women's League service on March 23rd was taken by members, with Mrs. S. R. Butler, of Gateacre, as preacher.

LONDON HACKNEY has started a Teen-Age Club, with varied activities, and the envelope offertory has been introduced. At RICHMOND the Youth Sunday service was taken by Miss Doris Sowter.

MANCHESTER. Altrincham Y.P.L. gave nearly six months' thought to their Youth Sunday evening service, preparing a quite unusual order of service which was reverently conducted by several members representing both the Senior and Junior Y.P.L. sections. R. Christine Needham took the prayers, which she had very carefully compiled, and two addresses on "Conscience" were given, one by D. Barrie Needham (branch Treasurer) and one by Keith M. Noble (Secretary). The organist was Douglas H.Copley (branch Chairman). After the service the congregation had been invited to an "Any Questions?" session in the school room, when questions previously sent in and questions from the floor were answered by a panel of four Y.P.L. members on subjects concerned with Y.P.L. activities and some more general matters. BLACKLEY and MIDDLETON Women's Leagues are for the present holding joint meetings. PENDLETON at its Sunday School party produced a clever Teen-Age Revue. SWINTON is preparing for the centenary of the Church Buildings in May, with a public meeting to be addressed by Mr. Chuter Ede. A £1,000 fund has been launched for re-flooring and re-decorating the schoolroom. Efforts have already begun and the Y.L.P. have given £15 and the Women's League £5. Week-end parties at URMSTON have re-erected the hut kindly given by Cross Street Chapel. Work is continuing to put in flooring and lighting, and various efforts are being organised to raise the money required. The revised plans for the new church at WYTHENSHAW have been passed by the Manchester Corporation, and it is hoped that building will start in a few weeks. Mrs. Gill led the Women's League service and Miss K. Tootill preached.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT WOMEN'S LEAGUE: About 150 members were welcomed to Brookfield Church, Gorton, in February, to the ringing of bells, for the Annual Meeting and service, which was conducted by Miss Ruth Herford, who preached on the text "And Jesus entered into the synagogue as his custom was." She emphasised the value of good habits, especiallly in religious worship, and in a League whose first purpose was "to deepen the spiritual life of our churches." It appeared later in the business meeting that the snowy weather had nearly prevented Miss Herford from attempting the journey, but her good habit of facing unpromising conditions brought her through. Two anthems were sung by the Brookfield ladies' choir. At the meeting, the officers were re-elected, and thanks expressed to Miss M. Jones, who retired from being temporary Secretary, Miss Mason being elected Secretary. Time was given for branches to give an account of their activities, and this part of the programme was very successful and entertaining. Votes of thanks closed a successful meeting.

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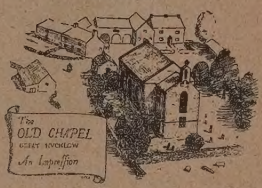
Rev. F. Cottier, 42, Windmill Lane, Reddish, Stockport, Ches., Hon. Sec. of the Widows' Fund, whose Committee comprises the Trustees of the Charity.

Northern S.S. Federation

UNITARIAN HOLIDAY HOMES



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The Story and Significance of the Unitarian Movement

by W. G. Tarrant, B.A.

Reprinted with additional notes

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GOD'S COLD

If it were always spring and never cold,
How could our strength unfold?
We need some stress and strife,
To gift a zest to life,
The test of suffering to make us bold.
The winter's cold works not to do us harm,
It makes our hearts more warm,
We say to friend or foe,
"Come, share the hearth fire's glow,"
And thus draw closer, sheltering from the storm.
He who withstands God's cold new life will gain,
Will triumph over pain,
Will falter not, nor faint,
And meet without complaint,
Whate'er He sends of blessing or of bane.

Lucie Forrar.

UNITARIANS IN THE NEWS

Mr. Charles Pollitt, of Stockport, well-known to visitors at Great Hucklow, has entered his 90th year, and Mr. Fry, of Richmond, his 91st.

The Rev. A. L. Agnew, O.B.E., B.A., D.D., J.P., of All Souls' Church, Belfast, is visiting Jerusalem.

The Rev. E. Phillips, of Great Hucklow, is going to Rotherham, and the Rev. E. Basil Short, B.Sc., of Newchurch, is going to Ullet Road, Liverpool.

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